

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 09309 220408Z
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 L-03 /031 W
----- 088245 /73

R 220330Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 686
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 9309

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AV, PK, AF
SUBJ: TALKS ON PAK-AFGHAN AIR SERVICE

1. PAKISTANEMBASSY MINISTER COUNSELOR TANVIR AHMAD KNAH TOLD EMBOFFS DECEMBER 20 THAT AFGHAN-PAK TALKS ON RESUMING AIR SERVICE BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES ARE GOING FORWARD. HE SAID THAT AFGHAN AIRLINES (ARIANA) COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR GRAN AND ARIANA ASST MANAGER OF SALES DEPT AZIZ HAMID WOULD BE IN ISLAMABAD DECEMBER 22 FOR FURTHER DETAILED TALKS WITH PAKISTAN INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES (PIA) OFFICIALS.

2. TANVIR ADMITTED PIA IS RESISTING GOING FORWARD ON THESE TALKS OUT OF FEAR THAT ARIANA WILL DRAIN SOME HALF MILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR AWAY FROM PIA'S FLIGHTS TO EUROPE. AVIATION MATTER HAS HOWEVER BECOME POLITICAL ISSUE AS WELL FOR PAKISTANIS, WITH PAKISTAN MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS MAKING REPRESENTATIONS UP TO PRIME MINISTERIAL LEVEL IN HOPES THAT AIR AGREEMENT WILL FURTHER PAK-AFGHAN RAPPROCHEMENT. TANVIR SAID THAT IF ARIANA POSITION "AT ALL REASONABLE" A DEAL CAN BE MADE.

3. EMBASSY FIRST LEARNED OF PAK-AFGHAN AVIATION
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TALKS NOVEMBER 23 WHEN AMBASSADOR CALLED ON PRESIDENT OF AFGHAN AIR AUTHORITY AND WAS TOLD AFGHANS EXPECTED FIRST CONVERSATIONS TO START WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS.
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Message Attributes

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